MSF Team

1. Greg Pisanich

Greg Pisanich is a Technical Area Liaison for the QSS Group Inc. within the NASA Ames Research Center's Computational Sciences Division. He is also the Project Manager of the Mission Simulation Facility. He holds Master s degrees in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Computer Engineering from Santa Clara University. His 15 years of development and management experience at NASA Ames includes cognitive engineering (the MIDAS project), flight simulation and human factors (creation of the Code IH Part Task and Airspace Operations Laboratories), and autonomous aerial vehicle technology and flight operations (Autonomous Cargo Amphibious Testbed, Bees for Mars Intelligent Aerial Vehicle, and the Neural Engineering Mini Flyer).

2. Dr. Lorenzo Flückiger

Dr. Lorenzo Flückiger received his Diploma in Microengineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne (EPFL) in 1994. He continued to work as a research assistant at EPFL, where he developed a testbed for Endoscopic Surgery Training with Virtual Environments. Since 1995, he pursued a Ph.D. at EPFL and received his degree in Nov. 1998. His research focused on new interfaces for robot manipulators using Virtual Reality. He was an International Fellow at NASA Ames Research Center (CA) during 1999-2000 where he integrated a force-feedback device within Ames robotic planetary interfaces. Since 2001, Lorenzo Flückiger works for QSS Group Inc. within NASA Ames as a research lead on simulation environments for autonomy in robotics.

3. Dr. Christian Neukom

Dr. Christian Neukom is currently employed by QSS Group Inc. as a research scientist at the NASA-Ames Research Center. During the last 14 years at Ames, he has been contributing to a number to different simulation projects including computational chemistry, human performance modeling (vision, audition, memory, attention, situation awareness), air traffic management and robotics. His assignments included both technical as well as task management roles. He received a B.S. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutherford and a Ph.D. in Chemistry at University of California at Berkeley.

4. Laura Plice

Laura Plice works for the QSS Group Inc. at NASA Ames Research Center. Her current assignments include requirements definition, project planning, and task coordination for the MSF project and technical contributions to the autonomous aerial vehicle project. Her previous experience (1985 2000) at Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space Co. in Sunnyvale, California, comes from a variety of technical areas. As an orbit analyst, she performed detailed technical analyses and trade studies for satellite constellations and maneuvers in the design phase of satellite programs. In real time operations, she served as an Orbit Analyst for the transfer orbit phase of A2100 commercial communications satellites. In autonomy, she worked on the design and implementation of expert systems for real time data monitoring applications and filled a group lead role in a software development project for an autonomous underwater vehicle. Laura holds a BSE and a MSE form the Aerospace Engineering, University of Michigan and is currently pursuing MS in Biological Sciences, San Jose State University.

5. Michael Wagner

Michael Wagner was first assigned as a technology liaison to NASA Ames Research Center in 1994 as a Captain in the US Air Force. There he joined the Intelligent Mechanisms Group to work in telerobotics and 3-D visualization. In 1995, he led the Ames team in a collaboration with JPL to design and prototype what would become the first autonomous spacecraft flight software, Remote Agent, which flew on NASA s Deep Space One mission in 1998. Since leaving the Air Force in 1996, Michael has broadened his experience in the software industry in both the commercial and government sectors. In the roles of architect, developer, manager, and consultant, he has designed, developed, and deployed software applications in such domains as Network Management, Spacecraft Test, Primary Education, and Mission Simulation. He has a Bachelor s Degree in Electrical Engineering from Duke University and a Master s Degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Southern California.